

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

The memoir entitled *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* was a real story about Nujood who is courageous to fight against the culture of the city and family law. At the age of 10, she had experienced as a wife who got violence from her husband and her mother in law. She lived in the small village in Yemen, a place where the customary law and patriarchy system exists. Yemen is one of small country in the Middle East like Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan etc. Like the other girls, Nujood is a child who had dreams, but when her father forced her to marry a man at the age of more than 30 years old, it was lose at all. To make a choice is not taught for all women includes children and adults so Nujood had to obey what her father's says or wants and also her brothers.

Having happy family after marriage is every body's desirability, but poor Nujood, she got bad treatment from both her husband and her mother in law. She had some reasons when she decided to force her marriage and claim to divorce, such as every night she got abusive from her spouse, her mother in law is not acting as a good parents who give peaceful in the family, then she prohibited to go to school, and the last his husband breaking his oath not to touch Nujood till she got menstruation. Child brides in Yemen were not novelties. They allowed marrying with requirement that is not to make

physical contact during the bride gets menstruation. In fact, the figure that allowed the children to marry in young is a father. Because she cannot endure the condition for long time, Nujood determined to fight against her marriage with proposed a divorce.

*I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* is written by Nujood Ali and Delphine Minoui. The original language of the memoir was French, published in 2009 and it was translated into 20 languages. The English version was translated by Linda Coverdale and published by Three River Press on March. It consists of 11 chapters, 64 pages. It is a true story of a girl named Nujood and Delphine Minoui, a reporter from France who arranged the story.

Nujood Ali was born on Yemen in 1998. She is the first figure of Yemen who fight against forced marriage underage. At the age of 10, in April 2008 she obtained a divorce. November 2008, *Glamour* American magazine choosed her as “*women of the year*” because of her courages tells her full story for the first time honored by Hillary Clinton and Condoleezza Rice.

Delphine is France’s Journalist, 39 years old. She gets an appreciated’s *Albert Loudress* for her reports Iran and Middle East since 1997. Besides her book that written with Nujood, the other work is *Les Pintades a Teheran* tell about women’s oppression in Iran. She lived in Beriut after finishing her works from Iran.

In the memoir, Minuoi describes the three important aspec ts of Yemen. First, social life that exist is dominated by tribal customs. Second, women are person who has no authority. Third, it is hard living in the city.

Yemen's head of state is a president but the power of the city lies in the tribal chief who is very influenced in the villages. Everything is under his power includes rifles sales, marriage, trade and the culture of *khat*. In the social life, the tribal customs dominate such as wearing a *niqab* is obligatory for all married women, a man with *Jambia* represents his social status, the tradition of *Sighar*; marriage exchange involves giving a younger sister of the groom to a member of his bride's family as a dowry and the culture of *Khat*. However, both father and the older brother are most powerful person and the leader in a family. They lay down the family's law.

Women are person who has no authority. Their participation in the society is limited, even in the family. There are many limitations for women, such as they are prohibited to go to school, as a result many women especially in the village are illiterate. Women must keep their distance from foreigner, a wife have to covers up her face with *niqab*, women has to be obedient to her father and they are not taught how to make choices. Only a man who is permitted taking a decision. It appears when young Nujood and her daughter has obeyed for what her father said. Until the day, Nujood's father forces her to marry a man in his 30s. At the time, she was 10 years old. When her mother, Shoya, was about 16 married with her father without a protest. Then, when her father decided to enlarge his family by choosing a second wife, her mother accepted it. Her daughter, Mona, also married in her 13.

The last, it is hard living in the city rather than in the village. After the conflict with the villager, Nujood's family force to flee the Khardji and they

transmigrate to the capital of the state, Sana'a. In the city there are many unemployed people. It is very hard to live in the city, some men had been reduced to send his wife and children came to streets to get coins. The condition is very contrast between the green Wadi La'a valley and the barrenness of the city. Her father get depressed because of the problems, that he is only an illiteracy and unskilled farmer. At the hard time and in a hurry, her father marries young Nujood with 30 years old man. One of reasons to marry the underage daughter is escaped starvation in the family because of her unemployed father.

In the public, there are good and bad critiques about the memoir. The good critiques come from Nicholas Kristof - *New York Times*, March 4, 2010. On page A35, he said that it was a powerful new autobiography. Isobel Coleman from *Washington Post* argued that the book was shocking because it covers the challenge for Yemen better than any scholarly works before posted on Sunday, April 4, 2010, and Hillary Clinton who also said "One of the greatest woman I have heard, she became pioner with her braveness".

Nevertheless, there is also bad critique about the memoir such as Mrs. Q, a book lover, said that the memoir was simple and powerful but she thought that the book should not categorize as a memoir, due to the simple language and age of the author. In depth information was also not mentioned in the book and it lacks many detail.

Later, the writer is interested in analyzing the memoir entitled *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* because of three reasons. First, controversial

topic about women and child brides that frequently debated. The memoir totally shows how women is oppressed and a little bride who want to live normally as a children not a wife like Nujood in this context. She is a young girl with dreams exactly. Nevertheless, when her father forced her to marry man in more than 30s and she got bad treatment from her husband and her mother in law in her new family, she decided to fight it. She does not want her daughter also get the same fate like her.

Second, this book gives some views about the domination of tribal customs in Yemeni social life. There are some limitations appear in many ways, both for men and women. Limitations for women that appears, such as they are not going to school, so they are learned from nature education, made choices is not taught for women, all married women should cover her bodies with black long cloth and niqab, then women are prohibited to show their self to unknown men, etc. Although, men have privilege in the family, they also have to obey on the decision of the customs. When the chiefs had taken the decision, everybody must accept it. Nujood's family for example, willing or unwilling have to leave their home after the incident of her daughter with a man founded together in the house. After the chief of the customs made decision, her daughter marrying with that man and all of family forced to change quarters within twenty-four hours.

The last, as the style of the language, the book supports with everyday language. The researcher does not find difficult words too much when reading the book. In addition, the speaker of the book is a child. One important thing

noted that children always tell the truth. It is one of the characteristics of children's language. Then, the memoir is written by a Journalist, Delphine Minoui. We had known that while writing a journalist inserts her/his ideology implicitly. Nevertheless, the invisible part need to explore in order to know the inside meaning of the memoir. In the memoir, Delphine take up the negative sense of the social life in Yemen that is something controversial and taboo.

*I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* can be summed up that the dominance of tribal customs in the society especially for women in this context is the controversial topic. In fact, in patriarchal society is hard not only for women but also for men. The unemployed people in Yemen are ordinary case especially in suburbs; young marriage is the best solution for extended family like Nujood's family rather than let the children become a cadger on the streets.

Based on the description above, the writer is interested in conducting a study by using critical discourse analysis entitled **“Protest Against the Domination of Tribal Customs in Nujood Ali's and Delphine Minoui's *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* Memoir (2010): A Critical Discourse Analysis”**.

## B. Literature Review

The researcher realizes that this research is not the first research. To prove the originality of the research, the researcher will show the previous studies that deals with the research.

The first research is entitled *Nujood Ali and the Fight against Child Brides in Yemen* (Lief, 2011, Tavaana Case Study). In her study, she analyzes Nujood Ali and her fight against child bride. She describes Nujood cases through leadership aspect and civil aspect. She finds up that Nujood focused on escaping her abusive marriage. She was also eager to return to her younger sister in order to protect her from the same fate. In the leadership aspects, she realizes that Nujood's courageous decision to end her marriage was a historic event for Yemen.

Moreover, the issue about tribal customs or patriarchic culture was taken before by the other researcher but in different data analysis. The second research is conducted by Destian Aviana (UMS, 2011) entitled *Revolt Against The domination of Patriarchic Culture: A Critical Discourse Analysis on Carmen Bin Laden's Inside of the Kingdom*. The purposes of the research are to describe the revolt against the domination of patriarchic culture reflected in Inside of the Kingdom based on its structural elements and to reveal the dominant ideology reflected. The finding of the research shows that the structural elements of Inside of the Kingdom are evidence that there is revolt from Carmen as western woman toward patriarchic culture in Saudi Arabia and the dominant ideology in Inside of the Kingdom is feminist ideology.

Considering the two previous studies above, the researcher wants to conduct the close and almost similar research. The similar with the first researches is about the object (data) of the study and the issue will be analyzed with second research. The difference between the first studies is about the type of the study and between the second is about the object (data) will be analyzed.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The problem of the study is “how is the protest against the domination of the tribal customs reflected in Nujood Ali’s and Delphine Minoui’s *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* memoir (2010)?”

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

To carry out the study, the researcher has to limit the study. The study is to analyze Nujood in the Nujood Ali’s and Delphine Minoui’s *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* memoir (2010) by using Critical Discourse Analysis composed by Teun A. Van Dijk.

### **E. Objective of the Study**

There are two objectives of the study.

1. To analyze the memoir based on its structural components.
2. To reveal the dominant ideology reflected in the memoir.



## **F. Benefits of the Study**

There are two benefits of the study.

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

It gives contribution to the other researcher who wants to get the broader body of knowledge in understanding critical discourse analysis approach.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

It gives contribution to the other researcher who interested in criticizing *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* memoir and to reach the broader body of knowledge in criticizing the other literary works.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Study**

In analyzing Nujood in Nujood Ali and Delphine Minoui's *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* memoir, the writer uses the qualitative method. The steps to conduct this research are (1) determining the type of study, (2) determining the object of study, (3) determining data and data source, (4) determining technique of data collection, and (5) determining technique of data analysis.

### **2. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is the memoir that consists of 11 chapters and 64 pages, the original language is French and the English version was

translated by Linda Coverdale in 2010 published by Three Rivers Press, New York. It will be analyzed through Critical Discourse Analysis.

### **3. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

The type of the data in this study is text that consists of words, phrases, clauses and sentences. In this research the writer uses two data sources, there are primary data and secondary data source.

#### **a. Primary Data Source**

The primary data source is the memoir written by Nujood Ali's and Delphine Minoui's *I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* translated by Linda Coverdale published in United States of America.

#### **b. Secondary Data Source**

The secondary data sources are taken from other sources which are related to the study of primary data, for instance some biography of the author, some books related to the study, website from the internet and other relevant informations.

### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The method used in this study is library research which is conducted by collecting and recording both of the primary data and secondary data source. Some ways of collecting data applied in this study as follows:

- a. Reading the memoir several times until the writer gets adequate information.
- b. Identifying the topic of the memoir.

- c. Reading some related books to points out the theory data and information required.
- d. Making notes of the essentials parts in both primary data and secondary data.
- e. Arranging and developing the selected data into a unity towards the topic of the study.

### **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The data will be analyzed through descriptive analysis. This is an interpretation of the text and context analysis to reach characteristics of the data of critical discourse analysis of the memoir entitled *I am Nujood Age 10 and Divorced* written by Nujood Ali and Delphine Minoui.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

The research paper organization of the study are as follows: Chapter I is Introduction. It consists of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefits of the study, research method and research paper organization. Chapter II is Underlying Theory. It consists of notion of critical discourse analysis, basic assumptions of critical discourse analysis, structure elements of critical discourse analysis and theoretical application. Chapter III is Historical Background of French society in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Chapter IV is Analysis and Discussion. Chapter V is Social Cognition that consist of Key Issues. Chapter VI is Conclusion and Suggestion.